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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I use a local telecom provider, and I'm switching from DSL to fiber with the same provider. I want to keep spending money in my town, benefiting my neighbors, who keep the wealth local, not be forced to ship wealth far away to people who aren't invested in my community.

My local provider also offers a valuable alternative to the near-monopoly providers elsewhere. The big companies have better commercials, but I get better service from the local provider, and having local alternatives serves as a brake on runaway corporate monopoly pricing.

Competition used to be the economic watchword of libertarians and Republicans, but now that their big donors are monopolies and near-monopolies, they have given up on the concept.

We need laws and regulations that at least do not favor the elimination of local competition. That's a low bar. I'll be watching to see if the FCC can even to that much.

Sincerely,

Steve Shea